

March 2009 Updates

03/29/09 Out of Action for a Few Days: Tomorrow (March 30th) morning I will be undergoing surgery on both of my wrists in hope of correcting severe carpal tunnel. This syndrome has coupled with a degenerative nerve condition I acquired more than 20 years ago to make my life both routinely painful and increasingly physically dysfunctional. I now have extreme difficulty grasping, typing, picking up small items, and just in general feeling anything with my hands (severe neuropathy) except pain. My hands now like to curl and lock, my colleagues call me 'Dr. Strangelove', and my grip strength is that of a 5 year-old.

The surgery I am having requires opening each hand from below the wrist to the mid-palm; the arthroscopic style won't work for me since I had extensive reconstructive surgery due to an industrial accident back in 75'. I have even been learning voice recognition software (Dragonspeak) in the event surgery fails. What this means is that for a little while (unknown time) I will be unable to update this website and the AHAA website. I hope for down time of two weeks or less; but it could be six weeks. My goal is to come back with the hands and tactile senses of a 55 year-old instead of an 85 year-old.

The good news is that what my neurologist thought for several years was a 'progressive deteriorating neurological disorder' has been discovered to be 'permanent but not progressive'. That means the damage I have is here to stay, but I probably won't have to be lap-belted into a golf cart anytime soon. Those distinctions are not trivial if you are the person they relate to. Say a prayer that the neurosurgeon doing the cutting doesn't like bourbon and my hands free up quickly. In the mean time, send in your news and pictures and I'll post them when I get back in gear...[See you in Woody at the Class BBQ!](#)

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Woody&state=CA&zipcode=93287#a/map/m::10:35.7109:-118.9324:0:::/e03/23/09>

03/25/09 Revised Biographies Page: I work on this site every week to try and make it more easily navigable. Today I have added bookmarks and hyperlinks on the biographies page to make it easier to click around by each letter instead of forcing you to scroll forever. If you have suggestions that I can incorporate, I'm open to them.

03/23/09 AHS Class of 1972 Classmate is Now a Best Selling Author: I got an email last night from Wendy 'Reiswig' Bailey telling me all about her first book signing. Wendy said she was surprised by how much work went into something that from the outside appeared so simple. After the book signing, Wendy took a few days off in Calistoga to consider holding similar events in other cities down the state. She is looking at a tour of California and hopes to hit Bakersfield when she is near by so she can see old friends. The only bad news, is that her hard drive has recently died and she lost a bunch of email addresses. If you want to contact Wendy her email is kbailey@mcn.org. By the way, Wendy is the Best Selling Author in Gualala, California at the moment...

03/22/09 BBQ Guest List Update: On Friday March 20th, James Williams, John Culbertson, and I had breakfast together at Hodel's. Jerry Sullivan from the Class of 1959 was there as well. John Bought. We were counting heads for the BBQ and John mentioned that he has reserved the [Woody Community Hall](#), which seats over 150, if we outgrow John's place. To date we will have no problem seating everybody at John's since we haven't hit the 44 attendees mark yet. However, rest assured that we can seat about 200 if we need to. Get you reservations in the mail today and don't be waiting until the last minute.

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Woody&state=CA&zipcode=93287#a/maps/m::10:35.7109:-118.9324:0::::/e03/23/09>

03/15/09 1st To Reserve Seats: Even though it's Sunday, I had to go into town to check on something I have growing at the lab and decided to stop by and check my mail. Imagine my surprise when I noticed that among a couple of mailers that returned for bad addresses, there was a letter from Greg Ibarra, Jr., with a request (and a check) that I reserve spots for two (2) at the BBQ. Way to go Greg!!! If you received your flyer with the reservation request form, please consider coming to join us and ordering early. We are getting together, even if it's just a handful of us. But as I noted months ago, 'it would be even 'funner' if you are there."

03/09/09 BBQ Reservation Forms: Forms to order tickets and reserve a seat for the Class of 1972 BBQ in Woody, CA on Saturday, May 9, 2009 went out in the mail this morning. You should be seeing them in your mail by week's end. The form is also available by clicking [here](#). Tickets are \$7.20 per person and include tri-tip, salsa, salad, beans, bread, and a choice of soft drinks; beer and wine will be available. I hope that many of you will come and bring your adult friends and children. If you have questions, drop me an email at farrellneeley@aol.com